

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

/080 W

----- 019092

R 051400Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8182

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 1035

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PINS, IS, JO

SUBJECT: JEWS FAIL IN ATTEMPT TO PRAY ON TEMPLE MOUNT
(HARAM-AS-SHARIF)

REF: JERUSALEM 864

1. HAVING PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION, 60-70 JEWS
LED BY JERUSALEM MUNICIPAL COUNCILMAN GERSHON SOLOMON
(LIKUD) STAGED ATTEMPT TO PRAY ON TEMPLE MOUNT (HARAM-AS-SHARIF)
ABOUT 11:00 A.M. AUG 5. OCCASION WAS HOLIDAY (TISHA B'AV)
COMMEMORATING DESTRUCTION OF FIRST AND SECOND TEMPLES. POLICE
STOPPED THEM AT ENTRANCE TO TEMPLE MOUNT. ABOUT 40 ORTHODOX
JEWISH FOLLOWERS OF SEPHARDI CHIEF RABBI OVADIA YOSEF ALSO TRIED
TO PREVENT THEM PHYSICALLY FROM APPROACHING ENTRANCE TO MOUNT,
EXCHANGING FISTICUFFS IN PROCESS.

2. AFTER POLICE SUCCEEDED IN SEPARATING TWO GROUPS, THOS LED
BY SOLOMON

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HELD PRAYERS ON RAMP LEADING UP FROM WESTERN

WALL AREA TO ENTRANCE TO TEMPLE MOUNT. SOLOMON THAN MADE
SHORT SPEECH IN WHICH HE VOICED CONFIDENCE, IN LIGHT OF HIS
CONVERSATIONS WITH RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS MINISTER RAFAEL,
THAT IT WOULD SOON BE POSSIBLE FOR JEWS TO PRAY ON MOUNT.

3. ALL WAS QUIET ON MOUNT ITSELF. THERE WAS NO ARAB
COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION OR EFFORT TO PREVENT PRAYERS.

4. COMMENT: SOLOMON CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
MINISTRY CONTEMPLATING ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS UNDER WHICH
JEWISH PRAYERS WOULD BE PERMITTED AT SPECIFIED TIMES AND
PLACES ON TEMPLE MOUNT. HOWEVER, IN ADDITION TO POLITICAL
OBSTACLES TO SUCH ACTION, CHIEF RABBI YOSEF AND HIS
ASHKENAZI COLLEAGUE, CHIEF RABBI SHLOMO GOREN, PRESUMABLY
WOULD FIRST HAVE TO COME TO SOME AGREEMENT. YOSEF SUPPORTS
TRADITIONAL VIEW THAT JEWS ARE FORBIDDEN TO TREAD ON ANY PART
OF THIS HOLY SITE, WHILE GOREN REPORTEDLY TAKES POSITION THAT
THERE ARE CERTAIN PERMISSABLE AREAS WHERE TEMPLE CLEARLY
DID NOT STAND.
NEWLIN

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